



HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER

April

HSZC Sangha News 2017

Issan-ji temple

“I heard and learned this from the Blessed One’s own lips:

‘As soon as the Bodhisatta was born, he stood firmly with his feet on the ground;

then he took seven steps facing north, and with a white parasol held over him,

he surveyed each quarter and uttered the words of the leader of the herd:

“I am the highest in the world; I am the best in the world; I am the foremost in the world.

This is my last birth; now there is no renewed existence for me.”

This too I remember as a wonderful and marvelous quality of the Blessed One.



[In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon \(The Teachings of the Buddha\) Paperback – edited and introduced by Bhikkhu Bodhi, His Holiness the Dalai Lama](#)

mondays

6 pm zazen (sitting meditation)

6:40 pm chanting service

tuesdays

6:00 am zazen

6:40 am kinhin

(walking meditation)

6:50 am zazen

7:20 am chanting service

7:40 am soji (brief temple cleaning)

* 6:00 pm to 7:00pm
queer meditation
space *

[\(Foreword\)](#)

dharmatalks @10:15am, saturdays

hszc speakers

Rev. Myō Lahey (our Abbot) - Apr 8, 15; May 6, 13

Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock - TBD

guest speakers

Rev. Jisan, Tova Green Apr 1; Rev. Fugan, Gene Bush - Apr 22; Rev. Daigan Gaither - way seeking mind talk - Apr 29; Rev. Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith - May 20; Rev. Shokan, Jordan Thorn - May 27; Rev. Fugen, Gene Bush - Jul 15; Rev. Shosan Victoria Austin - Jul 29; Rev. Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith - Aug 19; Rev. Ko Shin, Steven Tierney - Sep 2; Rev. Shokan, Jordan Thorn - Sep 30; Rev. Shokan, Jordan Thorn - Oct 14; Rev. Kogen Seido, Jamie Howell - Nov 11;



we now offer a queer meditation space evening, on tuesdays 6pm, please join us. no formal zen forms, a shorter mediation period than our usual zazen & discussion time/social time included. the format is designed to evolve to the desires & request of the attendees. it is from 6pm to 7pm.

Sangha Council

Saturday April 15 @ 12 noon - council runs for ~ 90 minutes maximum — we're continuing this format that is flexible enough for a diversity of needs. the primary focus has been recently on operational matters & new programs. the session is open to added topics as well & you do not need to have an 'issue' or overt concern to attend. All are welcome!

Full Moon Ceremony / Buddha's Birthday

wednesday - fridays

6:00 am zazen

6:40 am kinhin

6:50 am zazen

7:20 am chanting
service

7:40 am soji

6:00 pm zazen

6:40 pm chanting
service

**** thursdays study
hour (buddhist text)
7:30pm****

saturdays

6:30 am zazen

7:10 am chanting
service

7:25 am soji

8:30 am drop-in
instruction

9:25 am zazen

10:15 am dharma
talk

***11:00 am
refreshments/social**

** if a ceremony
applies it will occur
before social time*

Saturday, April 8 - The full **PINK** moon! This full Moon heralded the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox—one of the first spring flowers. It is also known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and the Fish Moon. Full moon's mark our monthly opportunity in this ceremony to renew our bodhisattva vows in a 30 minute ceremony.



It is also our tradition's date of recognizing the Buddha's Birthday (Siddhārtha Gautama, Shakyamuni Buddha) and a haf day retreat/sitting as well as a full moon, so we will coordinate to recognize both the birth of the enlightened one in which we circumambulate the zendo (meditation hall) while chanting the Heart of Great Perfect Wisdom Sutra and recognize our monthly renewal of our bodhisattva vows.

Half Day Sitting/Retreat!

Saturday, April 8 @ 6am - 1pm - zazen, kinhin, service, dharma talk, ceremonies and an oryoki breakfast @ our dining table when registered. Please to register use the sign up at the temple, or contact us. Also if you have questions or need more info contact us by replying to this email or writing to info@hszc.org

Study Hour

Thursdays each week @7:30pm - currently: selected Studies of Zen Master Dōgen. see our website for details. So far all have been from the Dōgen Shobōgenzo version compiled & translated by Kazuaki Tanahashi.

Closure & Schedule Changes -

mondays - no morning program, only evening schedule
tuesday evenings - queer dharma meditation and discussion @ 6pm
April 17, 2017 - closed
May 29, 2017 memorial day - closed
Study hour canceled due to Myō travel: April 20, 27 & May 4

Please support Issan-ji Temple

Dharma Study,
Resident Student
Program, Our Practice
Schedule, the Space &
Programs offered to
the Public.



**Donations are tax
deductible**
we are a 501-C 3 non-
profit

Founder Monthly Memorials - Issan Dorsey's is the **6th** of each month & Philip Whalen's is the **26th** (or closest dates to these if cant be on that day) - evenings at 6:40pm or saturday mornings

Practice discussions at hszc are available with Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock & Dokusan with Rev. Myo Lahey please call us, approach them directly, or email: info@hszc.org to request to schedule time.



Buddha's birthday @ HSZC - circa 2010



Words from our Abbot, Rey Myō Lahey (transcribed by sangha)

...This practice of unobstructed being is something you will never exhaust. A study that is unbounded and unlimited. Usually for many years, we're taking that on faith. It's not always so for many years, but often, and it certainly was for me.

You learn language, and if you have some facility with language, you learn quickly how to parrot it back. Which is a danger, because then you can start to think to yourself that maybe you got the knack. So it's almost better if you don't have necessarily much ability with language.

And slowly you absorb the vocabulary and the expressions in the stories, and then at some point, you could say you visit the country where the language is spoken—where everyone speaks it. Then your practice simultaneously ratchets up and floats away. This is kind of nifty.

I don't know how they arranged that, but they did. Many of the distinctions that perhaps we formerly made about "this is how you practice" and "that isn't right" and "gotta be in the Zendo" and that's true enough, but you start to see the provisional nature of those teachings as well.

You notice that your own life reflects for instance as Thich Nhat Hanh puts it, peace is every step, and you see how that has to be so. How that doesn't necessarily mean that you have some particular peaceful feeling all the time, but that each step embodies peace.

[hszc talk 04/10/2010](#)

HSZC(recent) History: Myo's ordination of Max Swanger, now Rev. Hokai, Max Swanger - 11 March 2017.

This event was a touching and inspiring event. Attendance hit somewhere between 45-60 individuals (we didn't take an official count) and all were in great spirits as Max received his priest vows and vowed to spend his life encouraging others in their Buddhist practice/zazen and way of being in the world in a Soto Zen encouraged and taught way of life.

Thank you all who attended and were part of this great celebration as our Abbot, Rev Myo Lahey ordained his third priest and HSZC had Shukke Tokudo, Sōtō Zen Priest Ordination 出家得度 ceremony for the first time in over 20 years!



On the Road Again...

Sangha member and soto zen ordain priest, Rin McCarthy will again takes to the road to walk by foot and cart across the united states, having conversations and raising awareness of global climate change as she crosses the country.

"Many of our actions will be 'fruitless' in practical terms, but we cannot let that fact silence our voices."

[Click here to keep up and be engaged with Rin's trek](#)



hokkaido, japan

please send stories, art, news or reflections for future newsletters to: tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com

please contact us for rental space & events, ceremonies performed by a zen priest -
weddings, memorials, coming of age & baby naming events



[hszc t-shirts! order yours today!](#)

Branching Streams
MEMBER
Affiliate Sanghas Network
San Francisco Zen Center



find other sf & bay area lgbtqi/queer community events [here](#) - or - [here](#)

may this newsletter find you well & equanimous! __/__